

From: "Allen Weidman" <Aweidman@socplas.org>  
To: <wtc@nist.gov>  
Subject: Response to NIST Recommendations regarding the collapse of the WTC Towers

Attached is SPI's response. Thank you for your review and consideration of our comments.

<<SPI response to NIST WTC Report.doc>> <<Response to NIST Recommendations re WTC.xls>>

**Allen C. Weidman**

Executive Director / Senior Director IT

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[AW-3WK4754]



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Allen C. Weidman  
Executive Director

Friday, August 05, 2005

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. (SPI) offers the following comments on the draft recommendations concerning the collapse of the World Trade Center. First, SPI compliments NIST on the incredible detail and thoroughness of its investigation into the events leading up to the collapse of WTC Towers 1 and 2. The amount and quality of the information generated by NIST during this exercise will surely lead to greater fire and impact safety in high rise buildings.

SPI is in complete agreement with the general recommendations made in the report. However, we believe that for the report to be self-consistent two additional detailed recommendations should be added as follows:

- 1) Enhanced Passive Fire Protection, and
- 2) Enhanced Fire Resistance of Building Components.

The attached spreadsheet indicates where these additions should be made, and why they are needed for the document to be more consistent.

SPI appreciates the opportunity to comment on the NIST recommendations prior to their publication. We believe the proposed additions would strengthen the document, allowing for the maximum breadth of technical solutions to the problems of fire propagation, heat release, loss of communications, burnout without collapse, issues of unusually large fuel concentrations, and redundancy in fire protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen C. Weidman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Allen" and "C." stacked above "Weidman".



## Section

## Additions

**Table 9-1 Crosswalk  
Recommendations  
to Categories**

Add a new Category Entitled: Enhanced Fire Resistance  
of Building Components

Category 4 - change to "Improved Active and Passive Fire  
Protection"

**Table 9-2a. Standards  
Affected by the  
Recommendation**

NFPA 1 - Fire Prevention Code	Add - Enhanced Passive Fire Protection	{
NFPA 13 - Sprinkler Sys	Add - Enhanced Passive Fire Protection	
NFPA 70	- Enhanced Fire Resistance of Building Components	
NFPA 72	Add - Enhanced Passive Fire Protection	
NFPA 90A	- Enhanced Fire Resistance of Building Components	
NFPA 101	Add - Enhanced Passive Fire Protection	
International Building Code	- Enhanced Fire Resistance of Building Components	
NFPA 5000	Add - Enhanced Passive Fire Protection	
ASTM International	- Enhanced Fire Resistance of Building Components	
International Code Council	Add - Enhanced Passive Fire Protection	
ISO TC92SC4 - Fire Safety Enq	- Enhanced Fire Resistance of Building Components	
National Fire Protection Assoc	Add - Enhanced Passive Fire Protection	
	- Enhanced Fire Resistance of Building Components	

## Justification (quoted from the body of the report)

{ "competition among different systems, **materials**, and **technologies**"  
  "burnout without collapse"  
  "Redundancy of fire protection"  
  "Sprinklers could be compromised, not operational or non-existent"  
  "To retard fire spread in buildings with large open floor plans" [areas]  
  "Containing unusually large fuel concentrations"

(Same as above)

In addition to the justifications noted above, there are many specific references within the report that speak of higher reliability/fire safety in the building's data/communications systems. Some examples are:  
- "the fire alarm and communications systems in buildings should be developed to provide **continuous, reliable, accurate** information..."  
- "...larger quantity of more reliable information from active fire protection systems..."  
  " ...steps to ensure that accurate emergency information is communicated in a timely manner..."  
  "- "...more robust design of emergency public address systems..."  
  "- "...improved emergency responder communications systems..."  
  "- "...methods for gathering, processing, and delivering critical information through integration of relevant voice, video, graphical, and written data..."